

Stars shine bright, but who's keeping the lights on?

Meet the unsung heroes of entertainment



Star Lifestyle spoke with such dedicated professionals, who, despite forming the backbone of performances, face challenges that seldom capture the public's attention.

"We are selected based on superficial criteria"

Tasfia Mumtarin Kangkhita, a classical dancer with years of experience, sheds light on the often-overlooked adversities dancers face, particularly those who work in the shadows of the limelight as backup dancers.

She states, "Dancing is often dismissed as a mere hobby, which

undermines our professional standing and financial stability. On top of that, we, especially the female dancers, hear disparaging comments from the audience and sometimes even from the organisers."

Her career, fuelled by passion and an unwavering commitment to her art, has nonetheless been marred by such systemic issues that undervalue and underpay backup dancers like her.

Kangkhita highlights the practical challenges faced by backup dancers, such as the lack of transportation after late-night shoots and substandard working conditions. "We are selected based on superficial criteria rather than talent."

"Many of us aren't active on social media, which unfortunately is



The world of entertainment certainly looks alluring. But have you wondered about the people who work day and night to keep the magic alive? Here, stars easily garner the lion's share of praise and visibility. However, the essential contributions of background artists frequently remain overlooked.



mistaken for a lack of skill," she explains. Kangkhita's experiences underline the need for the industry to reassess how it values and supports dancers, ensuring their safety and acknowledging their artistry as a true profession.

"I am not a celebrity. Many people, for this reason, often try to belittle me..."

A seasoned theatre artist and media actor in Bangladesh, Tanvir Hossain Samdani couldn't narrate a different story than Kangkhita. His career, spanning over 16 years, encapsulates the highs and lows typical for actors who primarily occupy supporting roles — highlighting the systemic issues that often keep them in the shadows of their more famous counterparts.

"I began my journey in 2009, often relegated to minor roles that felt increasingly inconsequential as lead actors manipulated scenes to their advantage, eclipsing others to shine on screen," Tanvir shares.